

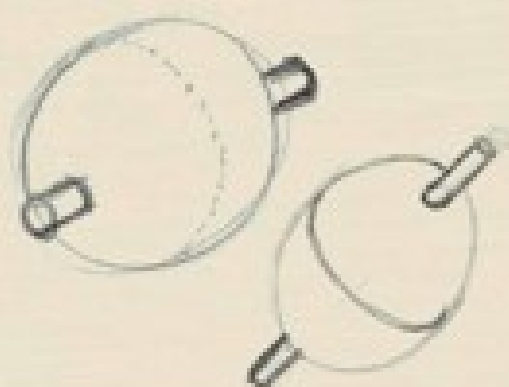
SPHERICAL FORMS

The sphere is more than a circle; it takes up three-dimensional space. This is somewhat an intellectual understanding because a circle and sphere look the same on a flat page, but it affects the way you develop details on top of it.



CROSS-CONTOUR LINES

On a gesture drawing, the head may be depicted by just a circle. When you go back through the drawing a second time, add a cross-contour line to establish how the head is oriented in space. A line drawn around the sphere will help you define whether the head is tipping forward or back.



ADDING THE EQUATORIAL LINE

When a sphere is elongated into an ellipsoid, as we are using for the head, it takes on a certain orientation along its long diameter. The equatorial line must be placed at a ninety-degree angle from the long diameter. This line represents where the eyes are on a head.

PLACE THE LINE CAREFULLY

If the equatorial line is just placed haphazardly, as shown here, the illusion of dimension is lost.



SQUASHED, STRETCHED & TWISTED SPHERES

The next step is gaining the skill to mold a sphere into any shape. Practice drawing the spherical form as if it were twisted, stretched or bent over. Also try merging two separate spherical forms together to come up with an endless number of variations. These forms can even become simple characters that take on personalities if you allow them. If you have trouble visualizing the twists and bends, play around with a little bit of clay and study how twisting, stretching and bending it affects the shapes and contours.



twist



twist



stretch



bend



twist

SPHERICAL FIGURES

Once you understand how to mold spheres into more complex shapes, it is not a difficult jump to using spheres to create simple anatomical forms. The figure on this page was created using only modeled and interconnected spheres. The figure appears to have real mass because it takes advantage of the sphere's simple, volumetric form.



SPHERES CAN BE MOLDED INTO ANYTHING

In this drawing you can see how the torso is just a spherical ellipse bent over to the left, stretching the right side. Connecting spheres together created the leg, and the pillow is simply a twisted sphere.

PRACTICE: SPHERICAL FIGURES

Analyze how spheres were used to create these figures. Get tracing paper and draw the spheres themselves along with cross-contour lines that you wrap around each form.

FIGURES BUILT FROM SPHERES

